

**SENATE DEMOCRATS**  
*Delivering for the People of Connecticut*

**DELIVERED:**

**2006 LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION**

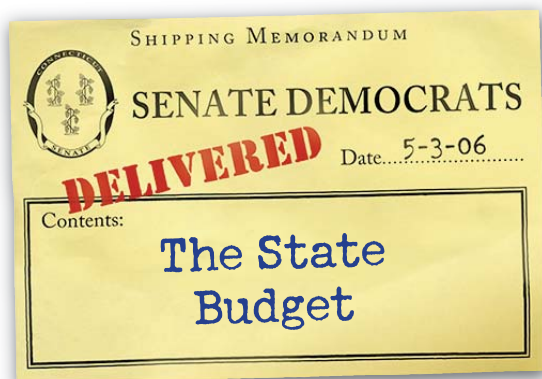
**FROM:  
SENATE  
DEMOCRATS**

**Connecticut  
Jobs for the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**TAX RELIEF  
FOR CARS,  
REAL ESTATE  
& BUSINESS**

**HEALTHY  
SCHOOLS  
INITIATIVE**

**TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENTS  
INCLUDING MASS TRANSIT**



**W**e chose to invest in programs to improve the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we're funding a cutting-edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut competitive in the 21st century.

We're reducing a number of taxes and providing tax credits designed to stimulate growth in our state. We're also putting \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund, and we're fully funding the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY 06 and FY 07 with \$246 million from the state surplus.

Our list of improvements/enhancements includes the following highlights:

## Funding our Priorities

### Town Aid

- \$33 million to cities and towns to help keep local property taxes down
- An additional \$20 million to help local schools pay for special education
- An additional \$2 million for the maintenance of local roads through the Town Aid Road program

### Education

- Funding for two new Charter schools and to provide ongoing support for current Charter schools
- \$6.5 million more for Early Childhood Education
- \$3 million for School Nutrition
- \$6 million for Priority School Districts

### Higher Education

- \$2 million for the Capitol Scholarship Program
- \$2 million for faculty recruitment in high-technology fields at UConn
- \$1.6 million more for higher education to make up for funding cuts in previous years
- New state funding to support expiring federal grants for minority education in the health professions
- \$3.35 million for the Higher Education matching grant program

### Human Services

- \$40 million to help stabilize Connecticut's nursing home industry
- \$13 million more in Medicaid rates for financially distressed hospitals, and \$5 million to support other hospitals
- \$3.3 million more for Home Care services to help residents maintain their independence
- \$5.1 million more to help SAGA health care providers serving those in need
- \$5.5 million for the Connecticut Cancer Partnership, of which \$1 million is set aside for breast and cervical cancer screening
- \$1 million for a new autism pilot program
- \$2 million for infrastructure development and community-based mental health programs
- Additional support for school-based health clinics
- \$625,000 for a new, intensive family reunification program
- \$1.26 million more for housing programs

### General Government

- \$4 million for employment training for at-risk urban youth
- \$535,000 for a new business advocate to cut through bureaucratic "red tape" and help fledgling businesses
- Over \$7 million in new funding for job training
- \$500,000 for 15 new state park maintainers
- \$1.3 million in new spending for culture and arts activities

## Tax Credits for Individuals and Businesses

### Individual Taxpayers

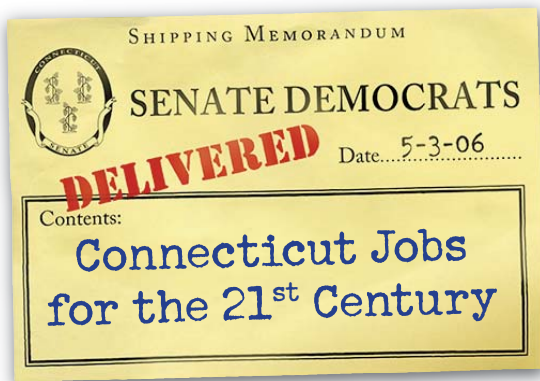
- The state property tax credit has been increased from \$400 to \$500 this year
- There's a new tax deduction on the personal income tax for contributions made to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)

### Business Tax Cuts

- There's a new tax credit for the restoration and rehabilitation of historic properties
- The personal property tax is eliminated on manufacturing and recycling machinery
- The 15% corporation tax surcharge is eliminated for 2007
- A new tax credit will attract and retain companies by rewarding businesses that have grown good jobs

*Delivering for the people of Connecticut*





A recent study shows that, since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. As a result, Senate Democrats initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future.

Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

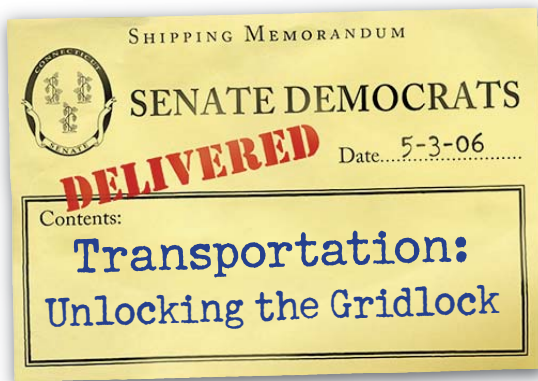
Highlights include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Tax incentives to attract movie companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut
- **Linking promising new businesses to the university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **More engineering and doctoral research graduates staying and working in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields
- **Teacher 'externships'** that help link the skills taught in classrooms to those sought by employers, and providing opportunities for students to participate in internship and job-shadow experiences that will help them build relevant job skills
- **Confirm Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **Nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level to improve the products we buy—to establish Connecticut as a world leader

*Delivering for the people of Connecticut*







Our initiatives represent a fundamental change in the way Connecticut approaches transportation: mass transit and the more efficient use of our current transportation infrastructure are emphasized. We worked to “unlock the gridlock” by moving people out of their cars and by expanding the ways we move freight in the state. This comprehensive bill reflects a transportation policy that’s good for **all** of Connecticut.

- Provides \$1 billion for various transportation projects, the majority of which are mass transit
- Major new services include the creation of the New Haven to Springfield Commuter Rail, creation of the New Britain to Hartford Busway, and significant improvements to branch lines, rail stations and parking facilities on the New Haven line and Shoreline East line
- Authorizes the issuance of \$1.3 billion in additional bonds for future transportation projects and other initiatives throughout the state
- Funds several studies, including the feasibility of implementing a commuter rail line linking New London to Worcester, Massachusetts where it would meet Boston’s “T” service
- Encourages transit-oriented development and locating businesses near mass transit
- Creates new resources for the Transportation Strategy Board and expands its planning capacity



Childhood obesity rates are rising at alarming rates, and the future health of our children is of grave concern to parents and doctors. We listened to Connecticut’s parents and medical professionals to ensure that our schoolchildren will have the opportunity to choose the healthier foods and drinks that promote good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Towns that agree to provide healthier choices for their students will receive 3 times as much in school lunch aid from the state as those that don’t. This incentive will allow for high-quality choices—something our kids deserve.

- We fought for and improved both the quality and nutritional value of the food and beverages sold in our public schools by banning the sale of soda and the syrupy sports drinks pediatricians say are unnecessary to reduce dehydration in active children
- Starting this fall, kids will be able to purchase milk, including calcium-rich chocolate and flavored milk, and 100% fruit and vegetable juices
- Removing unhealthy drinks from our public schools also creates a demand for one of the most popular and necessary drinks sold at schools—bottled water
- We passed innovative legislation connecting Connecticut-grown farm products to school cafeterias, thereby providing healthier food in schools while supporting agri-business jobs and farms in the state
- This legislation also provides incentives to schools to adopt healthy food guidelines established by the state Department of Education, which will allow them to purchase more nutritional and varied choices

*Delivering for the people of Connecticut*





The effect of energy policy on our everyday lives continues to dominate our airwaves and dinner table conversations, and our interest in energy independence remains strong. This year we concentrated on investing in renewable energy, and we attempted to lower the cost of various energy-efficient home and business improvements.

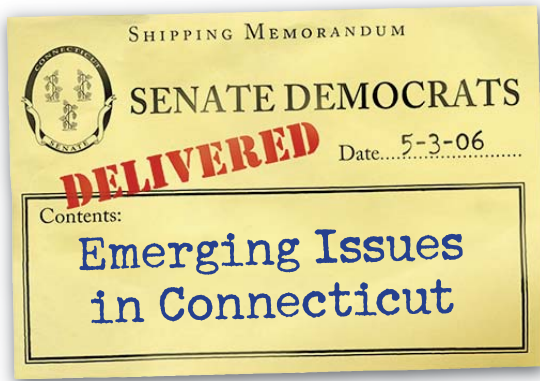
- Our Telecommunications Competition and Promoting Broadband Internet Competition bill allows telephone companies to compete with other companies entering the telecommunications market
- We extended the sales tax exemption for weatherization products such as insulation, programmable thermostats, water heaters, and certain windows and oil furnaces
- *An Act Concerning Farmers' Markets* expands the types of products that can be sold at farmer's markets, and it requires farmers to secure and maintain the same kind of license for market sales that they already have for farm sales
- To further promote Connecticut agriculture we are requiring the Department of Agriculture to establish a marketing campaign to promote Connecticut-grown farm products, including television and radio advertisements to promote the availability and advantages of Connecticut-grown products
- Our Clean Cars initiative establishes a greenhouse gas labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The new window sticker label will include a "greenhouse gas score." Also, the state Department of Environmental Protection—in consultation with the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change—will conduct a study to determine what level of motor vehicle greenhouse gas emission reductions are necessary



- To improve the so-called "severability" clause, a change in Connecticut's landmark Campaign Finance Reform law will protect the public financing system and enable it to return to law if, due to a constitutional challenge, funding is suspended for at least a week, thereby triggering a temporary suspension of the Citizens' Election Program
- Candidates in primary races already cannot accept in-kind assistance from political action committees (PACs); now, additionally, they cannot receive in-kind assistance from parties or caucus-related committees
- There are new limits (House \$3,500; Senate \$10,000) on the value of in-kind assistance provided by each party or caucus-related committee
- The new rules permit minor-party candidates to receive more public funds and raise greater amounts of small contributions
- The spouse of any governor cannot receive honorariums
- Former governors cannot lobby any agency of state government for at least one year after leaving office

*Delivering for the people of Connecticut*





#### **Addressing Underage Drinking**

- This legislation makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage alcohol possession on your private property or doing nothing to prevent such activity. It does, however, give exemptions for a person's own children or for religious or medical reasons.

#### **Ensuring Freedom of the Press**

- Members of the media cannot be compelled by a court to reveal sources of information unless that court can demonstrate that the information sought is related to a crime, and that the information being sought is essential to the prosecution or defense in a case

*Delivering for the people of Connecticut*

